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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,344	08/17/2001	David Tinsley		4204

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EXAMINER

LUDWIG, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/932,344

Applicant(s)

TINSLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew J. Ludwig

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications. Application filed 8/17/01.
2. Claims 1-17 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 14 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta et al., USPN 6,546,405 filed (10/23/97).**

In reference to independent claim 1, Gupta teaches:

The substantive content added by the viewing user is in the form of a temporal annotation, which identifies a particular relative time in temporally-dimensioned content of the multimedia document (compare to “*acquiring and annotating a content resource*”). See column 2, lines 27-35.

Motion video content is generally a sequence of frames, each of which is a single graphical image in a motion video image. Each of the frames of motion video content is associated with a particular time which is generally relative to a base time associated with the first frame of motion video (compare to “*composing one scene and constructing a narrative*”). See column 5, lines 25-30. The reference teaches the breakdown of a motion video within a multimedia presentation into frames. The reference fails to explicitly disclose the composing of a

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scene within the annotation of the multimedia document; however, because the claim limitations are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation within the scope of the art, the frames disclosed by Gupta provide a similar function as a scene (independently encoded frames of motion video content, which are generally referred to as I-frames and which can indicate a change of scene in motion video content. See column 17, lines 60-67). The frames taught by Gupta suggest segments of a presentation whereas the narrative could be considered the whole of the presentation prior to being displayed to the user. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the multimedia annotation methods taught by Gupta and utilize the frames of the motion video content to proficiently annotate exact segments of the presentation.

Multiple temporal annotation entries are stored in a temporal annotation database. Temporal annotation manager adds, deletes, and modifies temporal annotation entries in temporal annotation database dynamically (compare to “*exporting the content*”). See column 10, lines 42-47.

In reference to dependent claim 2, Gupta teaches:

The user-authored content becomes part of the display of the multimedia document in a temporal context. See column 2, lines 45-50. Figure 2 illustrates a layout defined by user-initiated actions (compare to “*defining a layout*”).

In reference to dependent claim 3, Gupta teaches:

A temporal annotation is represented in memory by a temporal annotation entry, which includes a number of fields, which in turn represent various characteristics of the temporal annotation (compare to “*importing the content resource*”). See column 9, lines 1-5.

In reference to dependent claim 4, Gupta teaches:

Temporal annotation entry includes an author field, a time field, a time units field (compare to “*applying one or more contextual descriptors*”). See column 8, lines 58-65.

Temporal annotation entry includes additional fields, which identify multimedia document as the multimedia document to which temporal annotation entry is associated (compare to “*applying one or more contextual object references*”). See column 9, lines 1-5.

In reference to dependent claim 5, Gupta teaches:

The annotation and media presentation methods of Gupta are introduced through the use of plug-ins or by adaptation of such a conventional multimedia document browser to provide functionality. See column 24, lines 15-17.

In reference to dependent claim 6, Gupta teaches:

Each temporal annotation provides a mechanism by which the user can pinpoint a particular point in the temporally-dimensioned content of a multimedia document and later immediately view the temporally-dimensioned content at that particular point. See column 17, lines 34-39.

In reference to dependent claim 7, Gupta teaches:

If the user selects option, multimedia document player detects the selection using conventional user interface techniques and retrieves a relative time as represented by data contained in time field and time units field (compare to “*constructing a narrative comprising defining navigational flow*”). See column 15-20.

In reference to dependent claim 8, Gupta teaches:

Alternatives to temporal annotation control button as user interface mechanisms by which user interface module allows the user to cause creation of temporal annotation entry include pop-up menus and pull-down menus which include various user options (compare to “*defining one or more context menus and associating each context menu with its context*”). See column 7, lines 36-40.

In reference to dependent claim 9, Gupta teaches:

Temporal annotations can be used as temporal links by which a user can quickly start playback of temporally-dimensioned content of multimedia document at the relative time of a particular temporal annotation to immediately view the temporal context of the temporal annotation within multimedia document (compare to “*specifying one or more design rules for flow customization*”). See column 16, lines 5-15.

In reference to dependent claim 10, Gupta teaches:

Temporal annotations can be used as temporal links by which a user can quickly start playback of temporally-dimensioned content of multimedia document at the relative time of a particular temporal annotation to immediately view the temporal context of the temporal annotation within multimedia document. See column 16, lines 5-15.

In reference to dependent claim 11, Gupta teaches:

In addition, the user can change characteristics of any of temporal annotation databases and to which the user has modify access. Such characteristics include access rights and, in particular, which users or groups of users have which access rights. See column 20, lines 45-50.

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In reference to dependent claim 12, Gupta teaches:

In addition, the user can change characteristics of any of temporal annotation databases and to which the user has modify access. Such characteristics include access rights and, in particular, which users or groups of users have which access rights. See column 20, lines 45-50. The reference provides the suggestion of a content provider displaying in a window, user-authored content.

In reference to dependent claim 13, Gupta teaches:

HTML page window includes representation of text and static graphical images of multimedia document in a HTML format. See column 6, lines 43-50.

In reference to dependent claim 14, Gupta teaches:

The substantive content added by the viewing user is in the form of a temporal annotation, which identifies a particular relative time in temporally-dimensioned content of the multimedia document (compare to “*acquiring and annotating a content resource*”). See column 2, lines 27-35.

Motion video content is generally a sequence of frames, each of which is a single graphical image in a motion video image. Each of the frames of motion video content is associated with a particular time which is generally relative to a base time associated with the first frame of motion video (compare to “*composing one scene and constructing a narrative*”). See column 5, lines 25-30. The reference teaches the breakdown of a motion video within a multimedia presentation into frames. The reference fails to explicitly disclose the composing of a scene within the annotation of the multimedia document; however, because the claim limitations are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation within the scope of the art, the frames

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disclosed by Gupta provide a similar function as a scene (independently encoded frames of motion video content, which are generally referred to as I-frames and which can indicate a change of scene in motion video content. See column 17, lines 60-67). The frames taught by Gupta suggest segments of a presentation whereas the narrative could be considered the whole of the presentation prior to being displayed to the user. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the multimedia annotation methods taught by Gupta and utilize the frames of the motion video content to proficiently annotate exact segments of the presentation.

Multiple temporal annotation entries are stored in a temporal annotation database. Temporal annotation manager adds, deletes, and modifies temporal annotation entries in temporal annotation database dynamically (compare to “*exporting the content*”). See column 10, lines 42-47.

Temporal annotation entry includes an author field, a time field, a time units field (compare to “*applying one or more contextual descriptors*”). See column 8, lines 58-65. Temporal annotation entry includes additional fields, which identify multimedia document as the multimedia document to which temporal annotation entry is associated (compare to “*applying one or more contextual object references*”). See column 9, lines 1-5.

The user-authored content becomes part of the display of the multimedia document in a temporal context. See column 2, lines 45-50. Figure 2 illustrates a layout defined by user-initiated actions (compare to “*defining a layout*”).

A temporal annotation is represented in memory by a temporal annotation entry, which includes a number of fields, which in turn represent various characteristics of the temporal annotation (compare to “*importing the content resource*”).

If the user selects option, multimedia document player detects the selection using conventional user interface techniques and retrieves a relative time as represented by data contained in time field and time units field (compare to “*constructing a narrative comprising defining navigational flow*”). See column 15-20.

Alternatives to temporal annotation control button as user interface mechanisms by which user interface module allows the user to cause creation of temporal annotation entry include pop-up menus and pull-down menus which include various user options (compare to “*defining one or more context menus and associating each context menu with its context*”). See column 7, lines 36-40.

Temporal annotations can be used as temporal links by which a user can quickly start playback of temporally-dimensioned content of multimedia document at the relative time of a particular temporal annotation to immediately view the temporal context of the temporal annotation within multimedia document (compare to “*specifying one or more design rules for flow customization*”). See column 16, lines 5-15.

In reference to dependent claim 15, Gupta teaches:

In addition, the user can change characteristics of any of temporal annotation databases and to which the user has modify access. Such characteristics include access rights and, in particular, which users or groups of users have which access rights. See column 20, lines 45-50.

In reference to dependent claim 16, Gupta teaches:

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In addition, the user can change characteristics of any of temporal annotation databases and to which the user has modify access. Such characteristics include access rights and, in particular, which users or groups of users have which access rights. See column 20, lines 45-50.

In reference to dependent claim 17, Gupta teaches:

HTML page window includes representation of text and static graphical images of multimedia document in a HTML format. See column 6, lines 43-50.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yang et al.,	USPN 6,301,586	filed (10/6/1997)
Greenfield et al.,	USPN 6,544,294	filed (5/27/1999)
Lin	USPN 6,369,835	filed (5/18/1999)

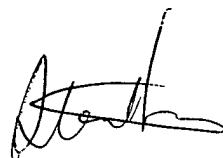
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Ludwig whose telephone number is 703-305-8043. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 703-308-5465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ML
October 29, 2004



STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER